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MULTI-MILLION PAYOUT TO HELP TIAGO



Tiago dos Santos, seven, who was born at the Horton Hospital

Damages awarded to boy born with umbilical cord round neck

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

A LITTLE BOY facing a lifetime of disability after being born with his umbilical cord wrapped tightly round his neck is in line for a multi-million-pound payout.

Alison dos Santos, from Banbury, is suing the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust after her son Tiago was delivered almost lifeless on June 26, 2006.

Tiago suffered 15 to 20 minutes of "profound circulatory collapse" after being born at the Horton Hospital in Banbury.

Doctors managed to save his life but he is never expected to walk unaided because of cerebral palsy linked to brain injuries suffered at birth.

Mrs dos Santos had sued the trust on her son's behalf, claiming there was a negligent delay in Tiago's delivery.

London's High Court has approved a settlement for the claim which will be two-thirds of the damages claim, although the trust has not admitted liability. Mrs dos Santos said: "I am very pleased that it has been possible to settle the case and that there will now be a real possibility of meeting Tiago's care needs in the future and to enable him to fulfil his real potential.

"I am extremely grateful to all those who have given so much support to the family and to Tiago over the last 10 years, through what has been a very difficult time."

Speaking to the *Banbury Cake* in 2014, Mrs dos Santos said staff should have realised that her unborn baby was showing signs of distress, and should have fast-bleeped doctors.

She added Tiago was a "beautiful boy with great potential. He has an inquisitive mind and a sense of adventure."

As millions of pounds are routinely awarded by the court in birth injury cases, it is expected that compensation in this case will be near the same when it is calculated at a later date.

David Evans, speaking for the trust, said his clients were "glad to be able to back the sensible compromise" and wished the family well for the future. He added that despite disputing blame for Tiago's injuries, the trust had "never lost sight of the tragedy which lies at the heart of this difficult case."

Tiago's solicitor Claire Fazan said: "We will now be identifying Tiago's lifetime needs caused by his disability in order to value the claim. In these cases, as children get older their care needs become more apparent over time, I expect that the claim will have concluded by the time Tiago is a teenager."

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School helps combat homophobic bullying



Students from Warriner School taking part in their new play Project Q to help combat homophobic abuse



ASPIRING actors have been trying to combat homophobic bullying with a new school play.

The drama is the work of students at the Warriner School in Bloxham as part of ongoing efforts to confront abuse in school.

Named Project Q, it uses physical theatre and dialogue taken directly from young people who have been interviewed about their experiences of gender and sexuality.

The production, which is followed by a question and answer session with the cast, also aims to challenge the audience to think about what it would be like to "come out" at school.

Oxfordshire County Council's lead member for children, education and families, Melinda Tilley, said: "This is a fantastic way to get staff and pupils engaged in tackling this issue, and I'd like to congratulate those involved.

"There's growing awareness surrounding homophobic, bi and transphobic (HBT) bullying and schools are working hard to address it.

"But the active involvement of young people themselves is crucial, which is what makes this project special."

Following a successful debut performance earlier this month, the cast are planning to tour the play in the county's secondary schools to raise the profile of HBT bullying and ensure more effective action is taken to safeguard young people. Campaign charity Stonewall has named Oxfordshire as one of the UK's leading councils for combating bullying, for the second year in a row.

The council has worked alongside the charity's education champions programme for more than five years.

This supports schools to prevent and respond to HBT bullying more effectively.

Mrs Tilley said: "We are very pleased to be ranked once again among the country's very best local authorities for tackling this issue and are continuing to work with schools and other settings as part of our wider anti-bullying work.

"Like all forms of bullying it should never be allowed to go unchallenged."

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Big name companies bringing jobs to town

National groceries distributor and flour manufacturer ready to move as part of expansions

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com

HUNDREDS of new jobs will be created in Banbury after two national companies announced they are moving to the area.

Health and beauty distributor DCS Group is setting up shop in the former Hella building in Noral Way to help with storage and distribution.

The Stratford-based company, which works with household brands including Gillette, Colgate and Unilever, says it has the potential to bring 229 jobs to the town. The move is part of the company's expansion and it is expected to retain its existing staff.

DCS founder Denys Shortt OBE said: "This is great news as we continue to grow.

"With this new site in Banbury we will double our current storage capacity and with 25 acres of industrial land we have plenty of room to expand, enhancing our long term sustainability."

Cherwell District Council's lead member for planning Colin Clarke said: "This building is already in use as an industrial premises but it is too large to be taken over by one of our local manufacturing firms.

"It is, however, perfect for use by a logistics operation, and there is high demand locally for such premises.

"In recent years Cherwell has supported the marketing of this site, because of its potential to boost the local economy and local jobs. We are pleased to be able to attract a national company to Banbury without the need for new building or land release."

Flour producer FWP Matthews will also be moving some of of its operation to Banbury.

The company has permission to set up storage and distribution facilities and offices in Beaumont Road, bordering Longelandes Road to the south.

The building is currently used by a tool manufacturer, but under new occupation the premises will be in use for fewer hours of the day than previously.

FWP Matthews said it will initially be using the site for the storage and distribution of flour, which it mills in Shipton under Wychwood.

Mr Clarke said: "I welcome this proposal to keep this building in use by business, and the contribution it will continue to make to Cherwell's economy.

"FWP Matthews is a leading national flour manufacturer with a very long history in Oxfordshire and we will be pleased to welcome a wing of its operations to the district."

Both applications were approved by the district council's planning committee at their monthly meeting on Thursday, July 7.

Sessions will offer residents advice about scams

TRADING standards officers are staging advice sessions to prevent residents from becoming victims of scams.

People should drop off any suspicious letters to Abingdon, Banbury, Cowley, Oxford and Witney libraries.

The team will be at Eynsham Emporium in Mill Street today, 10am to midday. There is also a session at Templars Square shopping centre in Cowley on Wednesday from 11am to 2pm.

Get advice at Witney Congregational Church on Thursday from 10am to midday, and at Castle Quay Shopping Centre in Banbury on July 28, from 10am to 1pm.

Call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506 or call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 for help.

The trading standards team hold talks on request. Email communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk for details.

Councillor calls for united push to keep services at hospital

A BANBURY councillor has called on political parties to unite behind the campaign to retain services at the Horton General Hospital.

Town council leader Kieron Mallon was speaking after plans were put forward to move maternity consultants from the hospital, leaving the unit only staffed by midwives.

Mr Mallon, also leader of the town's Conservative group, proposed a motion on the matter at the council's monthly meeting on June 28.

He said: "The threats to our hospital go back a long way. Governments of all colours come and go but the threat continues.

"While this has always been the case, unity among local politicians has been key in supporting the Keep The Horton General campaign.

"We do not yet have the final proposals that the trust will put forward but we in North Oxfordshire must be prepared."

Local Labour group leader Steve Kilsby said: "It is right to look to paediatrics and maternity but other threats to other services could emerge."

A new lease of life for hospital radio station



Radio Horton's new president, John Craven, opens the new studio

Celebrity John Craven at opening for new Radio Horton studio

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THERE was a bit of star-power on hand on Sunday to mark the 52nd anniversary of Radio Horton and the opening of a new studio.

Countryfile host John Craven joined many of the station's presenters past and present to mark the special occasion at Horton Hospital.

The new studio will allow the station, which broadcasts 24 hours a day to patients, to easily pre-record shows while also broadcasting live.

Mr Craven, who has presented BBC programmes *Blue Peter* and *Newsround* during his long career, was also named the station's new honorary president.

The families of Radio Horton founders Ted Hanson and Graham Wilton – who the studios are named after – were also there to see the new space officially opened.

Speaking about his new role, Mr Craven said: "I was very surprised to be asked actually. I've done some interviews with them over the years and I know what a great service they provide.

"The station is very important because you get to hear that friendly voice.

"What is good as well is how professional they sound, when people hear them they are amazed.

"It is very much a family station; to have the relatives here of the people who first broadcasted is fantastic."

When cutting the ribbon to open the new studio, Mr Craven added that he was "very proud and honoured to be Radio Horton's new president."

As well as the studio opening, there were long service awards given out to Radio Horton presenters, and a new magazine for the station was also launched.

Mr Wilton's son Jeremy was also named as the station's vice-president.

The station's chairman Kevin Matthews said: "It's taken a lot of time to get this studio ready. It means that when the other one needs a bit of maintenance we can go live with the new one.

"John was the obvious choice to be president. He is someone local involved in broadcasting and has been very supportive of us in the past.

"We invited the families down today because we wanted them to see what was created all those years ago."

Presenter and grandmother Elizabeth MacLeod, who lives in Hook Norton but previously served on Cherwell District Council, said: "I had wanted to do something like this before I went to university but back then local radio was not as well known."

New home plans thrown out over density fears

PLANS to build an extra 14 homes in Deddington, North Oxfordshire, have been thrown out by councillors for being a "tight fit".

The development was for land north of residential estate Gaveston Gardens.

But the additional homes would have increased density too much, according to councillors.

Cherwell District Council lead member for planning Colin Clarke said: "The applicant has previously been granted permission to build 85 houses on this site.

"The additional 14 dwellings would have been a tight fit, and were considered to be out of keeping with the local setting.

"The proposal would have made the site around twice the density of the neighbouring Gaveston Gardens development.

"Government requires us to supply a certain number of homes every year, and we are successfully meeting those targets. That means that we are in a strong position to resist proposals that are out of character with the district's rural communities."

It follows previous approval on appeal for 85 homes on the site, after Cherwell District Council rejected the original scheme.

Mr Clarke said: "We will continue to be supportive of balanced additions to the housing supply in district villages, provided they fit well with the traditional character of existing communities."

Lines will close for railway work

RAIL improvements across the county will close lines from the city to Banbury, Didcot Parkway and Hanborough.

Signalling work will affect the Banbury line from July 30 to August 7.

From the same day the route between Oxford and Didcot Parkway will be closed until August 14 for flood prevention works.

Then from August 3 to August 7 the railway will be closed from Oxford to Hanborough for bridge repairs.

Alternative bus services will be set up by Great Western Railway.

For more information see gwr.com/travel-updates/planned-engineering/hinksey2016

Old-style fete fun



OLD-FASHIONED games and stalls will be the main attractions for this year's North Aston Fete on Saturday.

This year the old favourites on offer include a tombola, raffle and white elephant.

The fete will be opened by Banbury MP Victoria Prentis, *pictured*, at 2pm.

All funds raised will go towards the restoration appeal for the parish church. Entry is £1. Parking will be on the village green.

Event for diversity

A CELEBRATION of Banbury's diverse community and international groups will be held on Saturday.

The Banbury Young Homelessness Project has organised an afternoon of music, arts and craft and food at the Bridge Street Community Garden.

The event will run from noon to 3pm.

Prisoner arrested

A 30-YEAR-OLD man who was wanted on recall to prison has been found by police.

Michael Foster, from Banbury, failed to turn up at accommodation set aside for him following his release from prison.

Thames Valley Police said he has now been arrested.



Roadworks delay is put down to a 'piecemeal plan'

DELAYS to vital road improvements in Cherwell are because of a 'piecemeal approach' to major housing projects.

The claim comes from the leader of Cherwell District Council (CDC), who says roads could be built sooner if a single council replaced the county and district authorities in the area.

CDC leader Barry Wood said waiting for cash from developers to come through, known as Section 106, was the cause of many problems.

He said: "As a district council, the government has given us a target to deliver 1,142 homes every year and this is not optional."

Councillor Wood added: "But while we are working hard to meet that number and provide the houses that the growing population requires, the roads are not coming forward at the same rate."

Bicester faces major growth with the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) quoting 22,800 new homes needed in the district by 203.

The leader has said that major developments such as these are being brought together like 'jigsaw puzzles'.

He added: "If Cherwell had responsibility for delivering the infrastructure as well as the homes then this piecemeal approach could be abolished and instead a more coordinated approach could be adopted towards the completion of the overall project."

But Oxfordshire County Council cabinet member for local government Nick Carter has said this model would not work.

He said: "This is pretty ripe coming from CDC, one of five districts in the county who have utterly failed to provide a coherent housing strategy."

Scouts work on recycled bikes bound for Africa



Deddington Scouts with their donated bikes, which will be sent to Africa

SCOUTS in Deddington have helped to recycle bikes which will be sent to help those in need in Africa.

Boys and girls from the Spartans Explorer Scout Unit helped collect more than 20 broken bikes from around the community before making new ones out of the working parts. All the bikes have now been taken to Halfords, which has been assisting with the recycling project, and soon they will be packed into containers to be sent to Africa.

The group has also been carrying out bike maintenance for Bloxham Pre-School and used the project as part of their Platinum Chief Scout Award.

Nathan Wheeler, from Halfords, said, "In one day, the Explorer Scouts brought in as many bikes as we usually get in a year."

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'Step up to plate' call for refugees

Leaders say council has 'duty' to aid children and will find cash somewhere

Matt Oliver
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OXFORDSHIRE has a "duty" to accept more than 40 refugees from camps near war-torn Syria despite budget shortfalls, council leaders have said.

The county council will decide whether to join a Government scheme to relocate unaccompanied child asylum seekers from areas such as Kent, which have been "overwhelmed".

Officials say many arrive in Oxfordshire alone by lorry and in some cases they have endured sexual abuse during their journey to the UK or even torture in their home countries.

County council leader Ian Hudspeth said: "We have got a duty to look after these children and will be working with the Government to see if we can also increase funding for it.

"In Oxfordshire we already accept a high proportion of child asylum seekers but clearly it cannot just fall to a small number of local authorities."

The county council now looks after just over 50 unaccompanied child asylum seekers – the fourth-highest figure in the South East – but the ruling would mean 44 more could arrive at a rate of two per month.

This compares to an estimated 900 being cared for in Kent.

This would bring it in line with a Government recommendation that councils should take on a number of child refugees equivalent to 0.07 per cent of their child populations.

But a report to councillors warns that, despite extra funding from Whitehall, this will cost £1m a year, which it has not yet found funding for.

Melinda Tilley, the council's cabinet member for children's services, said: "They are children who have no one and we cannot just leave them.

"Kent is overwhelmed at the moment and so other areas need to step up to the plate.

"Someone has to take care of them and I have no qualms about that – we have got to find the money somewhere and we will."

If the county council's cabinet agrees to join the scheme on Tuesday, child refugees could begin to arrive from this month.

But if councillors reject the proposals ministers have warned they could be forced to take on more refugees anyway.

Hannah Farncombe, county council deputy director for corporate parenting and safeguarding, said: "We have always had an open and welcoming response to unaccompanied child asylum seekers and what we have to remember – first and foremost – is they are children.

"Many turn up on the side of the road in Oxfordshire and they have considerable needs, so we need to reach out and support them.

"We are seeing quite young children, some who are quite traumatised or with significant health problems.

"They include those who may have been exploited on the road and some who have been through brutalising experiences – including torture."

Ms Farncombe said extra cash to pay for the children's care would be found through savings made from other areas or by cost-cutting.

She appealed to the public to come forward as foster carers if they wanted to help: "We are keen to hear from people who want to foster children for us, including these children.

"They would need to go through the same checks as is normally expected, but it would be enormously helpful if families came forward."

Contest holds mirror up to teen technical skills

Winner of competition builds a server and network to help air cadets talk in flight simulators

Kieran Davey
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ROBOTS in war zones, road safety systems and medical apps are among the bright ideas these technological whizzkids have come up with as part of a new competition.

IT company MirrorSphere has been challenging teenagers to share their technical aspirations for the chance to win a £1,500 bundle of the latest gadgets.

Since starting the competition earlier this year, the company – based in Bloxham – has received hundreds of applications with new inventions.

Last Friday an award was given to Sam Walton, from Horspath, who has helped design and build a server and network to help air cadets work together on flight simulators.

The Wheatley Park School pupil got the idea after taking part in air cadets for the last three years, and is hoping to become an aircraft engineer in the future.

Sam, 16, said: "I only found out about the competition when one of my teachers emailed us. I've always been interested in technology.

"I started building my server when I joined the cadets, and I thought it would be good to get it made for real.

"It was very surprising to hear that I had won. The other finalists all had very good ideas."

The server will help cadets in training by allowing them to talk to each other via radio while carrying out simulations.

Among the other four finalists was Headington School student Caitlin Burns, who had her own brainwave thanks to her problems with hayfever.

The 16-year-old suffers from the condition and said she often had difficulty remembering to take medication, or knowing which ones she can take at the same time.

Her invention, an app called Mediclock, will remind patients when to take their medication and what dosage to take.

She said: "I have to take antihistamines for hayfever but you can't combine them, and I found out that's a big problem for other people as well.

"As a student it can be a problem remembering to take your medication if you are busy.

"Using this app you can look up the names of medication and can see if they can mix as well."

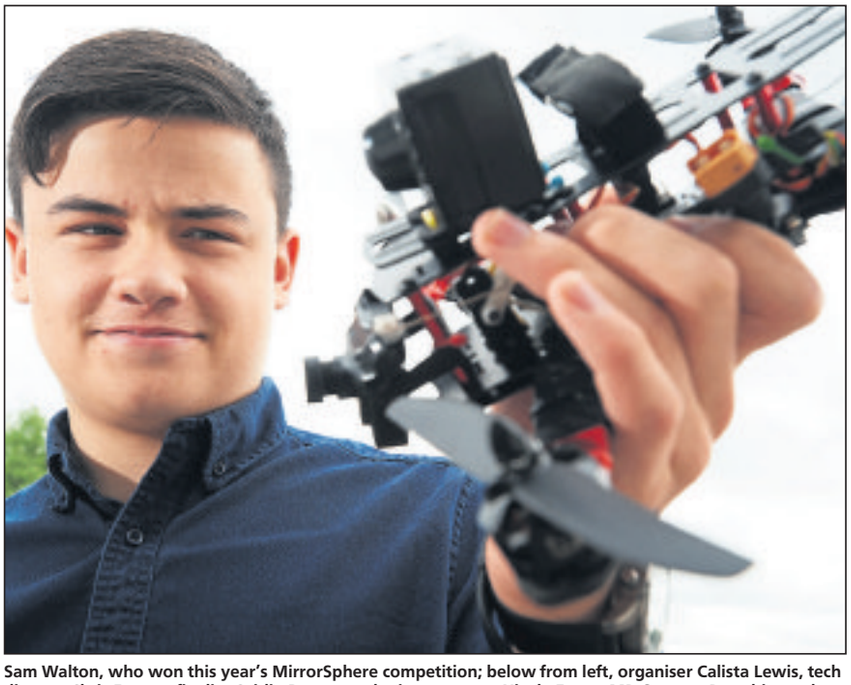
Going forward Caitlin, from Buckinghamshire, is hoping to study Artificial Intelligence and is looking for a job involving programming robots.

University Technical College Oxfordshire student Toby Hall, 17, came up with the idea of using robots to help people in disaster zones.

Callum Morrison, 18, designed a blind spot information system to improve safety on roads, while Headington School pupil Holly Rowland set up her own coding club to help teach younger children the coding language Python.

Speaking after the awards, MirrorSphere managing director Spencer Dauphin said: "Sam's passion for technology stood out, and the fact that he is using it for such a great cause made him shine.

"He truly deserved to win the title."





Sam Walton, who won this year's MirrorSphere competition; below from left, organiser Calista Lewis, tech director Chris Farmer, finalist Caitlin Burns, marketing manager Nicola Esson, MD Spencer Dauphin, and finalists Callum Morrison, Holly Rowland and Toby Hall

CCTV released





POLICE have released these CCTV images of two supermarket shoppers who could help with the investigation into a purse theft in Aldi.

The victim was in the store in Beaumont Road, Banbury, at about 9.30am on June 24, when her purse was snatched while she was not looking.

Officers would like to speak to the man and woman in the CCTV images because they might have vital information that can help their investigation. Call 101 with any information.

Break-in at club

THIEVES smashed their way into a sports club in Wroxton near Banbury last weekend.

Thames Valley Police said the village sports pavilion was targeted by thieves between 8pm on Saturday and midnight on Sunday.

They forced their way into the club by smashing one of the glass panels in the door and made off with a lifting bracket.

Anyone with information should contact police on 101.

Teaching survey

TEACHERS across Oxfordshire have been asked for their views on outdoor learning.

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre has invited educators to an afternoon forum on Thursday, September 22, to find out what it could do to attract more school visits.

The session, from 4pm to 6pm, will ask teachers what the centre does well and develop more ideas for what the centre could offer schools.

Teachers who would like to attend are asked to e-mail amanda.warwick@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 01865 863510 between Tuesday and Friday.

Mac's a sell-out

TICKETS to see comedian Michael McIntyre in Chipping Norton sold out less than two hours after going on sale.

The town's theatre put the tickets up for grabs on Saturday at 10am but announced just before midday that they had already all been snapped up.

Performances take place on August 23 and 24.

Have your say on health care

THE NHS in Oxfordshire is calling on members of the public to have their say on how health care is delivered in the wake of a £200m funding gap.

Events are being held to encourage people to drop-in and have informal conversations with NHS clinicians and staff to share their ideas on how services in Oxfordshire can be delivered now and in the future.

The local NHS is seeking views on how local GP, community and hospital services should develop so services are of "high quality, closer to home, more convenient with better access" and can overcome the blackhole of £200m by 2020/21.

Damon Palmer, programme director said: "We really want the public to be partners with us in this process.

"We want parents, teenagers, patients, carers and people that work in the county to tell us their views about how we can improve NHS services in Oxfordshire.

"We cannot afford to continue providing services in the way we have done in the past. Together we need to re-think how we deliver health and social care services."

The Big Conversation Roadshows are being held on July 18 from 6pm to 9pm at The Beacon in Wantage and on July 21 at the same times in Oxford Town Hall.

Meanwhile on July 26 from 2pm to 5pm, St Mary's Church in Wallingford will host an event, as will Littlebury Hotel, in Bicester at the same timings on July 28.

The Methodist Church in Witney will host the final drop-in session from 11am to 2pm on August 4.

If you would like to find out more information about these events, then contact Julia Stackhouse at Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group on 01865 334638.

Student insight into battle of Agincourt

STUDENTS from Banbury were transported all the way back to 1415 to learn about the Battle of Agincourt.

The year seven pupils, from Sibford School and the Warriner School, visited Broughton Castle last Friday to take part in squire training, immerse themselves in medieval music and become expert archers.

The event was organised by Banbury Museum as part of their history projects working with local secondary schools.

The museum's education manager Suzi Wild said: "It was a day of adventure, developing new skills, exploring a different time in our history, and all in the stunning surrounding of Broughton Castle."

This was the final event of the museum's Agincourt 600 programme, marking six centuries since the battle in the Hundred Years' War. Other activities included a fundraising dinner at the Tower of London.

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Skin cancer rates on rise in county

Melanoma cases likely to grow still further in years ahead, says dermatologist

Joe Gammie
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SUNBATHERS are being urged to cover up once the summer finally arrives after the number of skin cancer patients in the county shot up by 20 per cent in six years.

New figures show the number of patients being treated for the disease in Oxfordshire has risen from 2,793 in 2009 to 3,374 last year – hitting a peak of 3,392 in 2013.

It has prompted a skin cancer survivor and a hospital consultant to urge people to cover up or use suncream to avoid being at risk of potentially fatal melanoma.

Mum-of-two Rachael Willoughby was diagnosed with malignant melanoma in 2010 after noticing a new mole appear on her ankle.

The 38-year-old said she had originally told her GP about the new blemish in 2006, but was told not worry.

But when she went again four years later the doctor noticed the mole had grown and she was referred to hospital for treatment and had to have an operation and skin graft to remove it.



Rachael Willoughby was diagnosed with malignant melanoma four years ago

The school health nurse assistant from Bicester believes the cancer came from overexposure to the sun as a child and is urging parents to make sure their children do not get burned this summer.

She added: "As a mum it's drilled into you to use suncream.

"But everyone thinks it's never going to happen to them.

"You would not give your child a cigarette so why are people not concerned about them getting sunburned?"

Nationally the rate of melanoma – when moles become cancerous due to exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays – has gone up by 360 per cent since the 1970s according to Cancer Research UK and in Oxfordshire it has risen 300 per cent from 126 in 2002 to 508 last year.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust dermatology consultant Dr Richard Turner warned the number of patients with skin cancer will continue to increase.

He said because the cancers can take decades to develop, children who were burnt 20 to 30 years ago are still at risk of developing the diseases as they now enter their 30s and 40s.

Dr Turner added: "Have we got over the peak yet? No, I think it will continue to rise.

"We would like to think the message to use sun protection is getting through.

"I suspect in another 10 to 15 years we will start to see the benefit of peoples' changing behaviour, but I don't think we have topped yet."

Dr Turner said the majority of patients who come in with suspected skin cancers are diagnosed, treated and cured the same day.

Dr Turner urged parents to cover their children up using hats or long-sleeved tops and use factor 20 to 30 suncream.



Richard Franks with some of Sibford School's Year 9 pupils

Students hit with slapstick

STUDENTS at Sibford School took a break from lessons to learn the secrets of slapstick from a Cbeebies star.

Richard Franks, one third of the comedy trio The Three Half Pints from sketch show Spot Bots, visited the school near Banbury for a comedy workshop.

The Slapstick Comedy Workshop was part of the school's annual curriculum enrichment week, where pupils are taken off the normal timetable in order to try new and exciting activities.

One of those taking part was India Harwood, 14, who said: "Richard taught us lots of different stage techniques such as how to punch someone and how to trip over.

"He also gave us some top tips on how to express comedy through drama. It was a really good day."

Other activities included a visit to World War One battlefields in Ypres and Vimy, a five-day boating trip on the Norfolk Broads, camping and kayaking in Wales, and visits to London and Oxford.

Headmaster Michael Goodwin, who is retiring this month, said: "A phrase from the Quaker handbook, Faith & Practice, which we use regularly here at Sibford, is 'live adventurously'.

"That is exactly what curriculum enrichment week enables our pupils to do."

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Michelle Little, Home Manager

For information on funding permanent care, visit **caringhomes.org/funding**

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Tall Trees, Shipton-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, OX7 6DB.

New van to boost hospice

Foundation's funding helps to buy a wheelchair vehicle

Kieran Davey
kdavey@nqo.com



Volunteers at Katharine House Hospice with the new wheelchair vehicle

VOLUNTEERS at a North Oxfordshire hospice have paid thanks to the foundation that helped them buy a new wheelchair vehicle.

Katharine House Hospice has been given the van to transport disabled patients from their homes to the hospice.

It was paid for using a £7,265 grant from the Gannett Foundation, the charitable arm of the *Banbury Cake*'s parent company, which each year hands out grants to good causes across the county.

Hospice director of nursing Bernadette Ross said the vehicle means the hospice, in Adderbury, can double the number of disabled patients attending during the day."

She added: "This access to day hospice makes a huge difference to both patients and their carers.

"Many carers cannot get out of the house when they have a very disabled loved one at home.

"The rejuvenation to the relationship when they have both been able to have a fulfilling day is so valuable.

"The respite given to the carer is immense and can help to sustain the care at home, often preventing admissions to care homes."

Volunteers have been receiving additional training since the vehicle – a Vauxhall Vivaro Combo – arrived.

This includes helping patients to get easily and safely in and out of the van, as well as keeping them comfortable while driving.

The hospice is open for three days a week and can take about 12 patients a day.

Ms Ross said patients come to the hospice for a range of reasons, including respite for carers, diversions for those thinking constantly about illnesses, social interaction for people who have become isolated, and help regarding psychological concerns.

She said: "Due to advances in treatment many patients are living much longer with their illnesses, but they are sometimes less physically able.

"There has also been an increase in patients with neurological conditions affecting day hospice.

"These patients cannot access the services without the use of a wheelchair vehicle."

The hospice's previous vehicle was only suitable for one patient and it was difficult to fit large wheelchairs.

The new vehicle can easily fit two.

Since the hospice opened in 1991, more than 9,000 people with life-limiting illnesses have received free care and support from volunteers.

It costs £3.6 million to run the services, but only 29 per cent is met through government funding.

Every year the Gannett Foundation offers community groups the chance to apply for donations of between £5,000 and £10,000.

The other charities that received grants were Abingdon Riding for the Disabled and reading charity ARCh.

Online move targets carers

A NEW online service is bringing together Oxfordshire carers to help their loved ones stay safe and well.

Rally Round is a free digital network which allows family members, friends and carers to create and organise support for themselves and the person they care for.

Backed by Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Carers Oxfordshire, the network is designed to help frail older people and their family carers, but can be used to help anyone who needs more practical support.

Dr Barbara Batty, OCCG clinical lead for older people, said: "This is an exciting digital tool to make life easier for carers in Oxfordshire.

"It's like social media where new starters are supported to set up their own network.

"Individuals become part of the network by invitation only and can be family, close friends or professionals.

"Rally Round promotes strong support networks, which in turn help people stay out of hospital or reduce their dependence on care services."

Carers start by inviting friends and family to form a support group, and texts and email alerts remind everyone in the network who is doing what and when things need to be done.

Catherine Blaxhall, head of carers support at Carers Oxfordshire, said: "Rally Round is all about getting jobs done."

For further information visit rallyroundme.com/carersoxfordshire

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Ghosts in nostalgic return

GHOSTBUSTERS **(12A, 116 mins) Comedy/Fantasy/Sci-Fi/Action. Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon, Leslie Jones, Chris Hemsworth, Neil Casey, Andy Garcia. Director: Paul Feig**

IF THERE'S something strange in your neighbourhood, who ya gonna call?

Filmmaker Paul Feig.

The hugely successful director of *Bridesmaid*, *The Heat* and *Spy* applies a gender reversal to an effervescent remake of the 1984 supernatural comedy about a quartet of parapsychologists, who make a living capturing spooks in New York City.

Nostalgia oozes like ectoplasm from every glossy frame of this special effects-laden *Ghostbusters*, including cameos for most of the original cast and repeated bursts of Ray Parker Jnr's infectious theme song.

Actress Melissa McCarthy, the director's lucky talisman, is in fine fettle, effusively trading quips with co-stars including a scene-stealing Chris Hemsworth as the team's hunky male receptionist, Kevin, whose chest measurement in inches exceeds his IQ.

Erin Gilbert (Kristen Wiig) hopes to secure tenure at Columbia University, but her academic future is thrown into disarray when childhood friend Abby Yates (McCarthy) peddles copies of their long-forgotten 400-page tome, *Ghosts From The Past: Both Literally & Figuratively*. The two women are reunited in the lab where Erin conducts experiments with her madcap protegee, nuclear engineer Jillian Holtzmann (Kate McKinnon).

A haunting at Aldridge Mansion gives the trio their first glimpse of the fight ahead, and soon afterwards, ballsy subway worker Patty Tolan (Leslie Jones) joins the team, blessed with an encyclopaedic knowledge of Manhattan's grim history. It transpires that a demented misfit called Rowan North (Neil Casey) is summoning ghosts to create a vortex between the living and the dead. Armed with prototype backpacks, the gang gallantly races into the fray, risking ridicule from the media and Mayor Bradley (Andy Garcia).

When disaster looms, Erin pleads with Bradley to evacuate the city.

Ghostbusters affectionately harks back to the series' glory days before the creative misstep of the 1989 sequel.

McCarthy and Wiig rekindle their Bridemaids on-screen chemistry, with colourful turns from McKinnon and Jones, and merciless self-mockery from Hemsworth.

The script papers over gaping holes, including the absence of a backstory for kooky arch-villain Rowan, with spectacular action sequences and pop culture references like when the team claims a ghost flung a man out of a window and an incredulous cop replies, "You mean, like Patrick Swayze?"

ICE AGE: COLLISION COURSE **(U, 94 mins) Animation/Family/Comedy/Action/Romance. Featuring the voices of Ray Romano, Denis Leary, John Leguizamo, Queen Latifah, Simon Pegg, Jennifer Lopez, Keke Palmer, Adam DeVine, Wanda Sykes, Nick Offerman, Stephanie Beatriz, Max Greenfield, Jessie J, Jesse Tyler Ferguson. Directors: Mike Thurmeier, Galen T Chu**

THE creation of the universe wasn't the result of a Big Bang, divine intervention or some other scientific miracle.

It was the consequence of "something much dumber" according to the plodding fifth chapter of the computer-animated saga co-directed by Mike Thurmeier and Galen T Chu.

Ice Age: Collision Course posits that Scrat the calamitous squirrel was the unwitting catalyst for the solar system as we know it, setting off a chain of cosmological events in his relentless pursuit of a tasty acorn.

If the presence of a rodent at the controls of a flying saucer in the Paleolithic age seems a tad random, that's indicative of a script that thaws out plot strands and characters from earlier instalments and forlornly hopes for the best.

Ice Age already seemed long in the sabre-tooth after the fourth outing, *Continental Drift*, four years. Here, the prospect of a giant asteroid impacting earth and wiping the evolutionary slate clean sounds like a blessing to a family-friendly franchise, which has been running on empty for too long.



From left, Abby (Melissa McCarthy), Holtzmann (Kate McKinnon), Erin (Kristen Wiig) and Patty (Leslie Jones) in Ghostbusters; inset, Ice Age: Collision Course

CakeWhat's on

Thirst **by Benjamin Warner is published in hardback by Bloomsbury, priced £12.99 (ebook £7.47)**

FANS of post-Apocalyptic fiction will welcome Benjamin Warner's debut novel. It's a disturbing, enigmatic book, all the more troubling for its humdrum setting. The nightmare scenario Warner conjures up is of a sudden and total lack of water. Inexplicably, rivers and reservoirs have combusted, leaving only beds of ash and charred foliage. We don't know how far this disaster extends, only that food and drink is rapidly running out in the sprawling suburb where unhappy young couple Eddie and Laura live. Warner has something to say about dependence on authority and lack of meaningful community. But really this is a visceral book which excels in its gut-wrenching descriptions of how dehydration ravages the body and mind.

Dead To Me **by Lesley Pearse is published in hardback by Michael Joseph, priced £18.99 (ebook £9.99)**

SET in London and Devon before and during the Second World War, Dead To Me follows the unlikely friendship of two young girls whose lives are poles apart – privately educated Verity, and Ruby, who grew up in extreme poverty. Written from their perspectives, the story draws on themes of relationships, class and feminism, beginning with the moment they meet, to a pivotal event that threatens to tear them apart. Lesley Pearse crafts a gripping plot with darker undertones, leaving the reader second guessing right up until the heart-racing climax.

The Dog Who Dared To Dream **by Sun-Mi Hwang is published in paperback by Abacus, priced £7.99 (ebook £4.99)**

This the latest release from South Korean author Sun-Mi Hwang, most famous for her bestseller *The Hen Who Dreamed She Could Fly*, a story that was adapted into the highest-grossing animated film in Korean history. As its similar titles suggest, this new release is something of a sister novel to its predecessor in terms of its animal-focused narrative. The protagonist is a dishevelled puppy named Scraggly who captures the affection of her owner who is rearing dogs to be sold. A series of heartbreaking events that litter Scraggly's life lead her to dream of life outside the boundaries of her home, and propel her to act boldly and without fear. It's an endearingly simplistic story that reflects the modesty and spirit of Hwang's own upbringing in South Korea. Within the confines of a small garden, themes of friendship, motherhood and betrayal are examined. Overall it is a poignant, hopeful and charming read.

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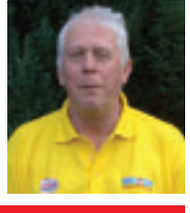
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Calls for healthy snacks in gyms

Leisure centres urged to replace unhealthy food in their vending machines

Pete Hughes
phughes@nqo.com

LEISURE centres across Oxfordshire will be asked to replace chocolate and crisps in vending machines with healthy snacks as soon as possible.

Calorie-crunching councillors at Oxfordshire's Health Improvement Board have made the request as part of a grand plan to make the county slimmer.

Fast food-free zones in schools and council offices, cooking courses for people on low incomes and advertising for food banks are among the other fat-busting ideas on the table.

Board members, leisure providers and private companies came up with the ideas at a 'slimming summit' in April.

At a meeting last Thursday, the board's principal officer Donna Husband answered questions about how the recommendations could be implemented.

Board member Hilary Hibbert-Biles, a Conservative county councillor for Chipping Norton,



Hilary Hibbert-Biles

launched discussions by asking Ms Husband: "How did leisure providers react to healthy vending machines idea? Because I note they are all full of chocolate bars.

"Did they agree they would look at this again?"

Ms Husband said while a lot of district councils responsible for leisure services were keen on the idea, they had to agree realistic contracts with private leisure companies, so it was "not always easy".

West Oxfordshire District Council's leisure development manager Heather McCulloch told the board one of her council's leisure centre contracts was up for renewal and officers had already "started conversations" about providing more healthy snacks in leisure machines in a new contract.

But she warned the board some councils might only be a few years into a ten-year contract.

Mrs Hibbert-Biles responded: "I would have thought we don't want to wait 10 years for these actions to come in."

Board vice-chairman and Oxford City Council deputy leader Ed Turner agreed and asked Ms Husband to seek an update from leisure service providers by the next meeting on October 20 to see what could be done.

Mrs Hibbert-Biles also floated the idea of asking leisure centres to hang up signs reminding visitors of NHS guidelines for daily exercise.

She said: "I was at a leisure centre and there were big boards saying 'are you going to do your 30 minutes today?'

"I don't see there is anything wrong with reminding people that you need that."

The board did not make any official recommendation on the issue.

Oxfordshire's "Healthy Eating Network", which has been tasked by the board to investigate the feasibility of community cooking courses and making school catering healthier, is due to report back to the board in the autumn.

Thousands turn out for stars



The crowds at Cornbury Music Festival at Great Tew, above, and inset, Bryan Ferry

THE organiser of Cornbury Music Festival has hailed the weekend's celebrity-studded event as one of the best yet.

More than 10,000 people joined the 13th instalment of the annual event at Great Tew Park, near Chipping Norton, for three days of music headlined by Bryan Ferry, Jamie Cullum and Seal.

There was a wealth of celebrities offstage too with television personalities Jeremy Clarkson and Angus Deayton, singer Sandie Shaw and the actor Orlando Seale.

Also enjoying the music was the outgoing Prime Minister's wife Samantha Cameron with her children – though her husband, a regular at Cornbury, was not seen on site this year.

Musically there were standout sets by All Saints, Corinne Bailey Rae, Soul II Soul, Booker T, Newton Faulkner and Wilko Johnson – who received an emotional welcome from the audience, having survived treatment for cancer.

Festival director Hugh Phillimore said: "It's been fantastic. One of the best yet, Bryan Ferry was on fire with a 90-minute set full of all the hits and Jamie was also amazing.

"Our headliners have really delivered.

"The site looked great, lots of people have been stopping and thanking me.

"Seventy-five per cent of our audience come every year, which is fantastic.

"I have been really busy but there is a real feeling of relief in a job well done."

Booker T delighted the crowd with a tribute to the late musician Prince, performing his hit Purple Rain.

Wilko Johnson's set was a highlight for many.

The former frontman of Dr Feelgood was last seen at the festival three years ago playing a farewell tour, having been diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer. However, he later had a successful operation to remove a tumour.

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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

Abingdon Young Farmers: Manor Farm, Marcham, Abingdon. Social and sporting events, talks and visits to local places of interest. 7.45pm. £35-40 per year.

Drayton Sequence Dance: Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton. 7.30pm. £2. 01235 531701.

Garden Visit to Blewbury Manor: Blewbury Manor, Berry Lane, via Westbrook Street, Blewbury. Wallingford Gardening Club's summer garden visit. 6.30pm. £6. 01491 836867.

Jewellery for hope: Vesey Room, Old Grammar School, Church View, Bampton. Unique pieces of jewellery handmade by Laura Hounam to raise funds for Against Breast Cancer. 11am. Free. 07816 333653.

Ramblers walk: Golf Club, Kirtlington. 11-mile figure-of-eight walk, morning 6½ miles via Tackley, afternoon starting at 2pm 4½ miles via Bletchington Park. Pub stop. Option to do morning or afternoon walks only. 10am. 07796 661449.

Rhythm and Dance: Rugrats and Halfpints, Beaumont Road, Banbury. 11am. Free with standard entrance price to centre. 01295 250060.

FRIDAY

CPRE Oxford Public Meeting: Wolvercote Village Hall, 1 Wolvercote Green, Oxford. Speaker: Jenny Bates, Air Quality Campaigner with National Friends of the Earth (FoE). 7pm. Free. 01491 612079.

Witney Bytomic Taekwondo Classes: Woodgreen School, Woodstock Road, Witney. 7pm. Monthly fees apply. 01844 281888.

SATURDAY

Baby Nearly New Sale: Langford Village Hall, Peregrine Way, Bicester. 9.30am. 1.5. 07780114837.

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Twyford Playing Fields, School Lane, Twyford. Leisurely nine-mile circular walk including Twyford, Goddington, Preston Bissett and Hillesdon. Picnic lunch. Registered assistance dogs only. Leader Margaret Barker. 10am.

Open Day: Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Station Road, Chinnor. Ride the heritage diesel railcar along the line for free and hear all the latest developments and news. Learn about the new Chinnor Restoration and Education Centre, including how we will aim to tell the story of Chinnor and its industrial past and our local railway heritage. 10am. Free. 07979 055366.

Print, Project, Collect: Pitt Rivers Museum, Entry via Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford. The first in a series of three afternoon workshops covering different aspects of photography, on the themes of photographic prints and printmaking, lantern slides and projection, and photography collections and collecting practices. 2pm. £16 (£40 for all three workshops). 01865 270927.

Ramblers walk: Christmas Common, Lay-by at side of road to Northend, Watlington. 11½-mile walk via Pishill. Pub or picnic lunch. 9.30am. 01844 339969.

Wallingford Guided Walks: Town Hall, Market Place, Wallingford. 11am. £5, as donation to Wallingford Museum. 01491 836200.

Strawberry Fayre: Church Lane, Middleton Cheney. Strawberry cream teas, cakes and ice creams in the Methodist Church. Stalls, competitions, games. Royal History exhibition in All Saint's Church. Disabled access and full facilities. 2pm. Free. 01295 712265.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Sponsored Walk: Shotover Country Park, Old Road, Headington, Oxford. 9am. £3 adults, £1 children. 07500 225215.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Clover Place Car Park, Eynsham. SP432094 10 miles. A walk to Stanton Harcourt and Pinkhill Lock with detour to Eynsham Abbey grounds at end. Bring refreshments. Pub lunch at Stanton Harcourt (if open). Dogs on leads welcome. 10am. 01865 514082.

SUNDAY

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Brill Windmill, South Hills, Brill. Leisurely 4.5-mile walk via Boarstall. Leader Sue Curtis. 2pm. 07986 813352.

Charity Quiz Night: The Three Pigeons, 31 Woodgreen, Witney. In aid of the Air Ambulance and Royal Lifeboat 7.30pm start with BBQ. £2. 01993 702803.

Combe Mill in Steam: Combe Mill, Blenheim Palace Saw Mills, Long Hanborough. All the steam and water powered machinery will be running as usual plus vintage transport. 10am. Adults £7, children £5, family £19. 01993 358694.

Northcourt Centre Open Day: Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. The many clubs and societies using the centre are putting on a variety of exhibitions, displays and demonstrations. A member's garden will be open from 2-3.30pm where plants will be on sale. Tea and cakes will be served at the centre. 2pm. £5, children free. 01235 532200.

Summer Sundays Cream Teas: The Reading Room, The Green, Combe. 2.30pm. £4.50 for cream tea (cake, scone and tea). 01993 898348.

Vintage Bus Rides: Oxford Bus Museum, Next to Hanborough Railway Station, Long Hanborough. Free vintage bus rides will run at 12.15pm and 2.45pm. 10.30am. Adults £5, over 60s £4, 5-16 £3. 01993 811003.

MONDAY

Mums Meet Mondays: Rugrats and Halfpints, Beaumont Road, Banbury. 9.30am. £1 per child. 01295 250060.

Seniors (Gentle!) Yoga: Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton. Promoted by Go Active Gold. 11am. £5. 07766 991487.

TUESDAY

Cafe Scientifique (age 16+): Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. Meetings take place in the Cornerstone café-bar and start with a 20-minute talk, followed by a break and then a discussion with audience members. 7.30pm. Free. 01235 515144.

Demonstration on ''Atmospheric seascape in watercolour': Centre 70, off Kiln Lane Goldsmith Lane, Wallingford. 7.30pm. £3 to visitors, free to members. 07803 263320.

The Truth about Trident – Disarming the Nuclear Argument: St Nicolas Church, Market Place, Abingdon. With Tim Wallis, peace campaigner and author, and Bruce Kent, who has campaigned for decades for a world free of nuclear weapons. 8pm. Free but donations welcome. 01235 526265.

WEDNESDAY

Abingdon Decorative and Fine Arts Society talk: Trinity Church, Conduit Road, Abingdon. The July lecture is entitled The Great Fire of London given by NADFAS-accredited lecturer Yasha Beresiner. Visitor fee £6. For further details see www.adfas.org.uk 10.30pm and 2pm.

Adoption Information Evening: Grimsbury Community Centre, Burchester Place, Banbury. Information events are a great way to learn more about adopting, the adoption process and how Adoption Focus can support you. 6pm. Free. 0845 5190539.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers: Martyrs' Memorial, St Giles, Oxford. Leisurely five-mile walk around Oxford City parks and waterways. Optional pub stop at the end. Leader Barry Whitehead. 10.30am. 07748 145074.

Ramblers walk: Christmas Common, by the Fox & Hounds PH, Watlington. Four-mile walk followed by pub supper. 6pm. 01865 891147.

Walk (Fieldpaths): Combe, Lodge Gate, Combe. SP428158 5.5 miles. Meet at Combe Lodge Gate, Blenheim; please use verge-side parking space. A circular walk around Blenheim parkland. Bring refreshments for en route break. Pub in Combe on return. Walking a short distance on minor road at start. Assistance dogs only. 10am. 01865 553800.

Music

THURSDAY

Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage: O'Carolan Evening. Hear the story of Turlough O'Carolan, a blind musician who travelled Ireland composing tunes for the gentry. A selection of his tunes will be played by The Mad Hatters Ceilidh Band. £6.50. 7.30pm. 01235 771447.

Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford: Lunchtime concert. Free. 12.45pm. 01865 243216.

O2 Academy, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Pierce Brothers. Australian folk-pop duo. 7pm. £14.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Nick Smart. The Spin Jazz Club. Jazz trumpeter accompanied by the Spin Trio. 8.30pm. £10, £8 (conc), £6 (student).

FRIDAY

Angel, Market Square, Witney: Andy Robbins. Young singer songwriter. Free. 9pm. 01993 703238.

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Baroque Music by Candlelight: Le Roi Danse. £17, £15 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

Standlake Village Hall, Rack End, Standlake: Jazz in West Oxfordshire. USA Sax player, Greg Abate with Craig Milverton, piano, Paul Jefferies, bass and Nick Millward, drums. £12.50 (£15 on door if available). 7.30pm. 01993 850164.

The James Street Tavern, James Street, Oxford: Mudslide Morris & the Revelators. Free. 9pm.

Yeoman Freeland, Wroslyn Road, Freeland: Uprooted. Male duo. Free. 9pm. 01993 881003.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Tropics featuring Holly Lawson. Funk & soul. 9pm-2am. £8 (adv), £10 (otd).

O2 Academy, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Pak-Man, Shaker The Baker, Big Tobz, Goldie 1, Fee Gonzales. Hip hop. 7pm.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: The Corsairs, Trauma UK, Junkie Brush, Strike One. Hard rock/ heavy metal. 7.45pm. £6.

SATURDAY

St Peter's Church, Thames Street, Wallingford: Guitarist Andrey Lebedev. £14 or £12 paid in advance. 8pm. 01491 824792.

Marston Royal British Legion, Haddow Road, Marston: Joe Holic. 9pm. 0186 5243991.

St Giles Church, St Giles, Oxford: The Titanic House Band – Not Waving but Drowning. £10/£8/£5 students. 7.30pm. 01865 510460.

The Swan Inn, Shipton Road, Ascott-Under-Wychwood: Martyn Joseph headlines Swanfest. £20 including a pint of Hobgoblin or a soft drink. 1pm. 01993 831427.

University Church of St Mary, High Street, Oxford: George Caird with the Oxford Sinfonia. (£12). 7.30pm. 07775 904626.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: Black Nevada, Reveller, Raised By Hypocrites. Metal. 7pm.

O2 Academy, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Southmartins. Tribute to The Beautiful South & The Housemartins. 6.30pm. £10.

O2 Academy, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Chronixx Love One. Jamaican reggae star backed by The Zinc Fence Band. 9pm. £27.50.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Symbol Of Orion, Crimson Tusk, Of Giantz, R.O.Y. Psychedelic/doom rock. 7.45pm.

St Mary's Church, Cropredy: Moonrakers. Trad & contemporary music from UK/Ireland. 7.30pm. £10.

Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock: Steve Summers Band. Blues/rock. 8,30pm. Free, donations welcomed. 01993 812094.

SUNDAY

All Saints' Church, Church Street, Sutton Courtenay: Theme & Variations. Michiyo Machida (piano) explores attractive examples of this form by Handel, Brahms and Benjamin Burrows. £6.50 (Student £4); Season Pass £28 / £16. 6pm. 07788 715873.

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Baroque Music by Candlelight: In Guilty Night. £18, £16 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Jack Gibbons plays Gershwin. £16 (on door £20). 8pm. 01865 305305.

Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown: Greg Abate Hard Bop Trio. American alto supremo performing as part of his world tour. 6.30-9pm. Free.

MONDAY

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Oxford Lieder Festival: Kathleen Ferrier Award Winners. £12/£5 (Under 25s Only). 1.10pm. 01865 591276.

TUESDAY

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Harpsichord Recital by Candlelight: Fancies & Caprices. £14, £12 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Oxford Improvisers. £9, £6. 7.45pm. 01865 305305.

The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Oxford Jazz Quintet. 8.30pm. Free.

WEDNESDAY

All Saints' Church, Lime Walk, Oxford: All Saints' Summer Festival Of Music & The Arts 2016. Richard Leigh Harris, piano. Free admission. 8pm. 07941724326.

Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford: Baroque Music by Candlelight: A Musical Offering. £17, £15 (seniors), £10 (students). 8pm. 01865 305305.

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Jack Gibbons plays Chopin. £16 (on door £20). 8pm. 01865 305305.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Willie J Healey. Vintage-style pop. 7pm. £5.

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Jul 16, *Hotbed.* Menagerie Theatre Company brings the best work from their Hotbed New Writing Theatre Festival. 6.30pm and 8.30pm. £10 (£8). 01865 305305.

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Jul 16, Jim Campbell, Bryan Lacey, Sol Bernstein and Ian Coppinger. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 04007.

Oxford Castle, New Road, Oxford: Jul 4-16, *Much Ado About Nothing.* 7.30pm. . £15 adults, £13 concessions. Jul 18-30, *The Tempest,* 7.30pm. £15 adults, £13 concessions. 01865 260666.

Multiple locations, Becket Street, Oxford: Jun 23-Jul 30, *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* Creation Theatre will take audiences on an immersive interactive adventure in small groups across multiple locations. 7.30pm. £24. 01865 766266.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Jul 15, *Puppetry of the Penis.* 7.30pm. £24.40 plus £2.85 transaction fee. Jul 18-23, *Save The Last Dance for Me.* £17.90 - £39.90 plus £4 transaction fee. 0844 871 3020.

Old School Quadrangle, Bodleian Library, Oxford: Jul 19-31, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona.* Globe Theatre On Tour. 7.45pm. £24 (£22). 01865 305305.

Oxford University Parks, Parks Road, Oxford: Jul 13-Aug 13, *Hamlet.* Creation Theatre. 7.30pm. £22 to £27. 01865 766266.

The Gardens of Wadham College, Parks Road, Oxford: Jun 28-Aug 18, *Love's Labour's Lost.* 7.30pm. £18-£23. 0844 879 4418.

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown: Jul 14, *Bucket List.* The story of Mexican orphan, Milagros, her journey from the sweatshops of Cuidad Acuña to New York University, and what happens when the promise of a better life begins to unravel. 7.30pm. £10 (concessions £8). 01865 319450.

The Story Museum, 42 Pembroke Street, Oxford: Jul 11-16, *William Shakespeare's Richard III.* 7.30pm. £14 full (£10 concessions).

Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot: Jul 15, Access All Areas. A day-long festival with hands-on activities designed for people with learning disabilities. 10am. Free. Jul 16, *Stuart Maconie: The Pie At Night.* 7.30pm. £15, £13.50 (concs). 01235 515144.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jul 16, *The Owl and the Pussycat's Treasury of Nonsense.* 11.30am. £8.50. 01608 642350.

Launton Parish Hall, Bicester Road, Launton: Jul 15, *That's Entertainment!* The Village Players 2016 Summer Show. 7.30pm. Adults £9, children £5. 07812 890656.

Orchard Dene Garden Theatre, Watts Lane, Blewbury: Jul 20-23, *A Midsummer Night's Dream.* Open air production with the Blewbury Players. 7pm. Adults £12.50, children £6. 01235 515144.

CakeSport

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Richard West took 7-53 from 11.3 overs in Banbury's 36-run victory over Harefield in Division 1

West's spell delivers win

Off-spinner in seven-wicket haul for Banbury

A SUPERB seven-wicket spell from off-spinner Richard West secured Banbury a 36-run victory at home to Harefield in Division 1.

Australian Kurtis Patterson struck 84 off 109 balls with nine fours as the hosts made 228-8 dec from 63 overs in the Home Counties Premier League clash.

He was supported by innings of 40 from both Hugo Darby and Luke Ryan, whose 29-ball knock added a much-needed acceleration to the innings.

A magnificent 106 from opener Jack Shiel put Harefield in sight of a shock victory at 154-3.

But West turned the game in dramatic style taking 7-53 from 11.3 overs as the visitors lost their last eight wickets for just 38 runs to be all out for 192.

BANBURY

H Darby c O'Sullivan b Vijay 40
C Haupt c&b Vijay 12
K Patterson c King b Evans 84
L Sabin c King b Vijay 2
R West lbw Morris 15
A Blanchard c Morris b Vijay 18
L Ryan c Friend b King 40
K Penhale c King b Evans 5
T Bradbeer not out 2
O Wright not out 1
Extras 9
Total (8 dec, 63 ovs) 228

Fall: 1-39, 2-74, 3-86, 4-130, 5-167, 6-196, 7-218, 8-226.

Bowling: King 13-3-35-1, Evans 10-2-33-2, Vijay 21-3-78-4, O'Sullivan 4-0-16-0, Morris 15-1-59-1.

HAREFIELD

J Shiel c Patterson b West 106
O Richards c Haupt b Wright 18
D Norotam c Sabin b Wright 0
J Vijay c Penhale b West 42
S Friend c Darby b West 9
M Ogden c Penhale b West 0
D O'Sullivan c Sabin b West 2
D Evans c&b West 0
S Morris c Sabin b West 4
D King st Bradbeer b Ryan 1
T Day not out 0
Extras 10
Total (all out, 45.3 ovs) 192

Fall: 1-74, 2-84, 3-154, 4-171, 5-172, 6-178, 7-179, 8-187, 9-188.

Bowling: Penhale 3-0-29-0, Blanchard 5-2-32-0, Ryan 20-7-36-1, Wright 6-2-34-2, West 11.3-0-53-7.

Banbury 25pts, Harefield 5

LATEST TABLE

	P	W	D	L	A	BP	Pts
Finchampstead*	10	6	0	2	1	14	165
Banbury	**10**	**6**	**1**	**1**	**2**	**15**	**155**
Henley	10	5	3	1	0	31	146
High Wycombe	10	4	2	3	1	37	139
Slough	10	3	1	3	3	31	122
Tring Park	10	3	2	3	2	32	115
Burnham*	10	5	2	3	0	32	98
Gt & Lt Tew	10	2	2	4	2	40	98
Reading	10	1	1	7	1	47	81
Harefield	10	0	0	8	2	42	54

Puritans lose to Eastleigh in pre-season

BANBURY United lost 3-1 at home to a strong Eastleigh side in their first pre-season friendly.

The Vanarama National League outfit took the lead midway through the first half when a cross from Jai Reason was turned into his own net by Declan Benjamin.

Three minutes later another cross from Reason was headed home by former Oxford United striker Yemi Odubade.

Banbury reduced the deficit on 42 minutes via the second own goal of the game.

But the visitors completed the scoring on 58 minutes, when former Oxford City midfielder Luke Coulson lobbed Jack Harding.

Meanwhile, the draw for the first qualifying round of the FA Trophy has been made.

The Puritans will take on either Bishops Cleeve or Didcot Town at the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium on October 29.

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ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Expect stern words from those you work with this week, but try to realise that it's only out of care for your future, not out of need to disarm and break you. A change you did not want to happen in the family is actually beginning to sit with you far better than you thought it would. Proof of this comes from events and conversations this weekend. Ring now for the full low down on life and love.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Try to spend some time alone this week thinking about what you want out of life. You have been asking for answers from those who have not known you long enough to form a valid opinion. If you look back over the events of the last month, then you will see for yourself how far you have come. Ring now to hear why it's worth saying yes to unexpected plans over the coming seven days.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Your career comes under the spotlight and you see with ease what needs to be done to take control of your life. No longer do you feel the need to follow the crowd, but you realise you are an individual and you embrace the idea of doing things your way or not at all as a stubborn mood sets in. Ring my starline right now to hear how fellow Geminis are worth being led astray by.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Work and play go hand in hand and you start to realise that you are able to have fun with your work. You also see which friend could be lover material and some of you Cancerians will be taking the lead in love in ways you'd never previously had the confidence to do. Careful of an ex or old friend trying to claim something which isn't rightfully theirs. Ring now to delve deeper.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

You should, by the end of this week, have managed to worked out exactly what a close one's mixed reactions really mean. Your ruling planet the Sun makes it possible for you to bring out the best in those close to you. Those who said no last week will be willing to say yes this week. Neptune helps you reignite a lost dream. Go for it! Ring now so I can help you find your confident feet again.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

You get word on a change you have been waiting for, but were beginning to give up hope on. The home comes under the spotlight from Tuesday when you make a decision about what needs to change and why. Your ruling planet Mercury helps you to take your career up to the next level and you meet with those who have the power to help you. Call now to reveal your destiny.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

I can see you're in need of a break, but you're unable to take one until you find out what a certain person's intentions are. You've had to wait with baited breath for some time now, I see that. But I also see that you've excelled with your patience and calm and have managed to impress many people around you. So you're the winner after all! Call now for news of an upcoming wedding.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

You know you need some help, but pride is standing in the way of you getting it. Try to draw on the strength of your ruling planet Mars and push for a change of heart. People who want to help you don't care about what went before, they just care about the now. Remember this when being offered assistance financially and emotionally this week. Call now to reveal a liar in your circle.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Careful of believing lies this week, as you've already been fed some whoppers by close ones and aspects suggest they're continuing to reel you in. An emotional time in family matters has made it impossible for you to know who was to blame but, slow your pace, keep your calm and all will be revealed directly to you by Friday. Ring now to hear how new attractions beckon through work.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

There is a lot for you to learn from family and friends this week as they pull together to help you through something you had thought was a solo matter. Not so. You also discover that you have friends in high places professionally as, at the eleventh hour, you are given a yes to something you have already been given a no to. Ring now to hear how flirtation is irresistible for your sign.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You thought you knew a lot and you were right, but this week you discover you actually only knew the middle of the story and you are about to discover the beginning and the end. Uranus makes it hard for you not to let those you don't like know how you feel about them. Calm and collect Aquarius, give them a second chance. Ring now to hear why I think you should.

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

There are many reasons to celebrate this week. Before you start to push for changes, make sure they fit in with those who would be involved, as aspects suggest that you have not consulted them directly. A new hobby, sport or recreation changes your mood towards those around you, thank goodness! Call now so we can talk about life and love.

0906 585 4371

Independent Retailer Month

Campaign showcases benefits of small retailers

SHOPPERS in Banbury are being encouraged to support small businesses during Independent Retailer Month this July.

The national campaign highlights the contribution of local independent retailers to the community, the local economy and the retail sector as a whole.

According to research, for every £1 spent locally, between 50p and 70p recirculates back into the local economy. But for every £1 spent out of town or online, just 5p trickles back to the local community.

By convincing people of the benefits of buying locally, the initiative aims to change shopping habits long term and increase footfall in high streets and village centres.

A key message of the campaign is that, as well as offering a more personal shopping experience and attentive customer service, smaller shops also offer good value for money.

Banbury's Old Town with its selection of small, independent stores and tea shops offers old-fashioned charm for shoppers.

Where the Castle Quay Centre provides a modern shopping experience with big national chains, the Old Town retains its historic atmosphere.



INDEPENDENT: Banbury's Natural Health Store

Several local bakeries and restaurants sell the famous Banbury Cakes, which have been made to a secret recipe for hundreds of years.

One of the local businesses based in Banbury is the Natural Health Store and Therapy Rooms in George Street. The shop sells vitamins and supplements, natural cosmetics and health food. Owner Annette Tuckey said the business grew out of her passion for the natural health industry.

She said: "Most independent retailers set up their business in an industry they are passionate about. This certainly was the case for me and I am really enjoying every day. I would hope customers feel they experience a personal service in our store and can draw from my knowledge."

Support for Independent Retail, the organisation behind the campaign, is dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of local businesses. It provides support, advice, ideas and inspiration to help retailers stay open for business despite the challenges, such as competition from big online retailers.

Its website features a free Independent Shops Directory where shoppers can search for small businesses.

There is also a selection of free resources which business owners can download, including Independent Retailer Month posters to display in-store throughout July.

Shops are encouraged to record videos to promote their business and products or services. Sharing positive customer feedback on social media is another way retailers can spread the word about the benefits of buying locally.

The Oxfordshire Chamber of Commerce, which represents businesses across the county, is backing the campaign.

Its president, Peter Smith, said: "At the Chamber, we are very supportive of local businesses supporting their local communities.

"We would encourage residents to support Independent Retailer Month – it is important to recognise and encourage small shops."

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- Make a pledge to shop locally as much as possible for the month of July to support local independent retailers
- Search for local independent shops on the retailer database at independentretailermonth.co.uk
- Follow the campaign on Twitter @IndieRetail to find out what's happening in your area
- Encourage your friends to shop locally

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7 EDUCATION

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8 PUBLIC NOTICES

Announcements - Public Notices

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)

Notice of Temporary Traffic Order
Wigginton Heath Crossroads
Prohibition of Vehicles
Date of Order: 25 July 2016
Coming into force: 4 August 2016

This Order is being introduced because of carriageway repairs which are anticipated to take 26 days to complete. The effect of the Order is to temporarily prohibit any vehicle proceeding or waiting in Wigginton Heath Crossroads, for approximately 150m in each direction.

Appropriate traffic signs will be displayed to indicate when the measures are in force. Exemptions are included for emergency services and for the works and for access to premises which are only accessible from the closed section of road. The alternative route for traffic (forming a circular route running clockwise) is via: B4035 Main St – Tadmarton Rd – Cumberford Hill – A361 South Newington Rd – Bloxham Rd – Main Rd – Station Rd – East End – Sibford Rd – Hook Norton Rd – Main St – B4035 – Swalcliffe Rd, or vice-versa. This Order will remain in force for a maximum period of 18 months or until the works have been completed whichever is the sooner.

Traffic Regulation Team (Ref T4358/AC) on behalf of the Director for Environment & Economy, Speedwell House, Oxford OX1 1NE. 0845 310 1111

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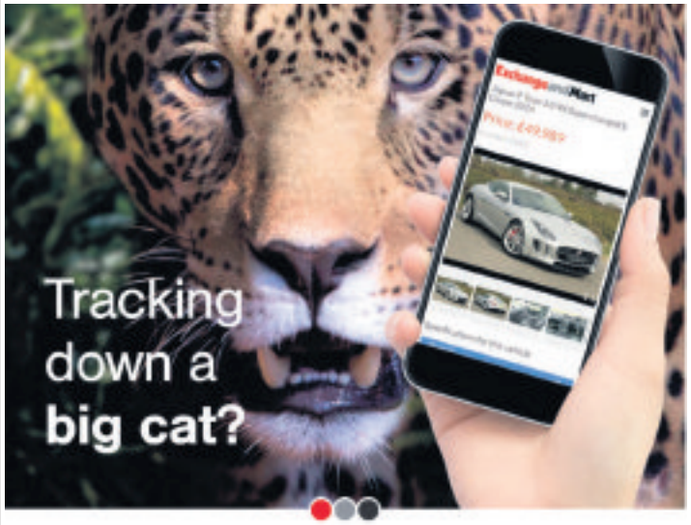
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The kitchen, bedroom and sitting room of the Barratt Homes show home at Longford Park

New homes available as site begins third phase

Gill Oliver
gill.oliver@nqo.com

BARRATT Homes is close to completing 92 new homes, as part of phase two of Longford Park.

Phase three at the site on the edge of Banbury will launch soon.

There will be four phases in total at the development, a joint venture between Barratt, Bovis Homes and Taylor Wimpey.

The three house builders are contributing almost £5m to the area, as part of planning agreements with Cherwell District Council. Facilities being built include a new school, village centre, football pitches and a sports pavilion.

Construction of phase one of Barratt's development started in October 2013, with the sales centre opening in December of the same year.

That was followed by the launch of three show homes in April last year.

The developer started building its second phase of homes earlier this year and expects to complete the homes this summer.

Olivia Purkins has been living at Longford Park with husband Carl and two children Sam and Iris since it opened in 2014. The couple grew up in the Banbury area and were keen to move back, after living in Croydon.

She said "The development was in the right place at the right time. We love living here and it's in an ideal location for me and my husband, as we both commute to London."

Homes at Longford Park are a mix of three- and four-bedroom properties, priced from £274,950 to £394,950.

A typical mid-terrace has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, including an ensuite off the master.

For more information, call the Barratt Homes sales centre on 01295 257795, on Monday from 12.30pm to 5.30pm, or Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 5.30pm.

Or, call 0844 811 9933 seven days a week, from 8am to 9pm, or see barratthomes.co.uk/longfordpark

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5E George Street

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market two bedroom spacious apartment with roof terrace. The property comprises open plan kitchen living room; two double bedrooms and bathroom with bath and shower. The property is conveniently situated for the town centre and train station and is available unfurnished. EPC Rating E.

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Sage Close

Martin & Co are pleased to present a large three bedroom furnished property. The property comprises: spacious entrance hall with storage cupboard; dining room; kitchen with separate breakfast area.Good sized first floor lounge; separate utility room. The master bedroom benefits from fitted wardrobes and an ensuite shower room.

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Peoples Place

A spacious two bedroom unfurnished apartment with plenty of storage available immediately within walking distance to the town centre and train station. Book your viewing now.

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2 Kings Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present this two bedroom cottage situated in the village of Bloxham. The property benefits from one double bedroom and a second smaller bedroom / office. The bathroom contains a WC and a shower. Good size kitchen and living room. Washing machine and fridge available. EPC rating C

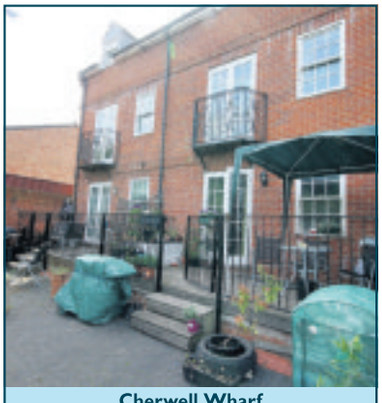
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Cherwell Wharf

Martin and Co Banbury are pleased to present, this 3 storey town house, situated next to the canal and close to town centre. The property comprises; two reception rooms, three double bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen and decked area to the rear of the property. Allocated parking. EPC Rating C

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Broughton Road

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46 Centre Street

Martin & Co are pleased to present a spacious four bedroom mid terraced property situated in Grimsbury within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises two reception rooms; kitchen; upstairs there are four bedrooms on 2 split levels. The master bedroom benefits from an ensuite bathroom. EPC Rating: D.

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1b Crouch Street

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market one bedroom studio apartment situated conveniently for the town centre and train station. The property comprises an open plan kitchen and living area. There is also a separate bathroom with shower. The property is available unfurnished and would suit ideally a single professional. EPC rating: C

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Broughton Road

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23 Canterbury Close

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Banbury **£275,000**

Immaculately presented 3 bedroom period townhouse situated.

- Three bedrooms
- Beautifully presented
- Period Property
- Large Garden



Banbury **£350,000**

A GARDENERS DREAM!! Four bedroom detached family home sits in a substantial plot in Hardwick.

- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Cul-de-sac
- Large Plot



Banbury **£320,000**

An impressive three bedroom detached situated at the end of a cul-de-sac

- Detached
- Garage
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms



Banbury **£365,000**

A house of quality refitted over the years and presented beautifully by the current owners.

- Three reception rooms
- Four bedrooms ensuite
- Conservatory
- Large kitchen



Banbury **£310,000**

Fantastic extended three bedroom semi-detached property

- Three bedrooms
- Planning permission for extension
- Two reception rooms
- Large studio



Banbury **£285,000**

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Banbury **£275,000**

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- Three bedrooms
- Beautifully presented
- Period Property
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- Detached
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New Car Road Test



The definitive view
by Andy Enright

Kia sportage's smart move







HOW did the Kia Sportage quietly develop from also-ran to front runner in the budget SUV stakes? By offering more of what people want, that's how. This fourth generation car now packs in more equipment, tidies the styling, sharpens the dynamics a tad but keeps the same value, practicality and great after-sales care. The motto here seems to be 'If it aint broke, give it a better stereo'.

Background

It's easy to believe for a moment that the market for compact SUVs hasn't changed all that much in the last ten years, but it's now radically different and the biggest beneficiary of these changes have been Kia, and more specifically its Sportage. Consider this. Ten years ago, you could pick up a brand new entry level Land Rover Freelander for under £16,000. Even as I'm typing this, I'm double checking to see if that's correct. It is. Nowadays the Freelander's Discovery Sport replacement would set you back over £30,000. That's a massive increase. Yet the Office of National Statistics tells us that the average annual wage over the same period rose by 37%.

What it all means is that a huge amount of buyers are being priced out of the SUV market. That's something that Kia not only recognised, but also put itself in prime position to capitalise on with its impressive fourth generation Sportage. It now gets a smarter look inside and out, greater practicality and a range of technologies to improve comfort, convenience, connectivity and safety. If you're buying a small SUV or a Qashqai-like Crossover model in this segment, it's well worth a look.

Driving Experience

This fourth generation model carries over many of the mechanicals of its predecessor, but adds some new technology too. The petrol range is made up of a normally aspirated 1.6-litre GDI 132PS unit and a much pokier T-GDI turbo 177PS powerplant. Go for the T-GDI variant and you get the brand's latest seven-speed DCT dual-clutch automatic gearbox. Most Sportage buyers though, want a diesel. For buyers wanting to fuel from the black pump, the range starts with a 115PS 1.7-litre CRDi variant. Above that, there's a 2.0-litre CRDi option, offered with a choice of 136PS or 184PS power outputs. Whatever engine you decide upon, you should find that refinement levels have been much improved over the third generation model.

Design and Build

The front end of this MK4 model Sportage is the biggest change over the outgoing model, thanks to smarter headlamps that sit just above a bolder, lower, wider version of Kia's hallmark 'tiger-nose' grille.

These lights are positioned higher, sweeping back along the outer edges of the sharply-detailed bonnet. The result is a more imposing appearance and a more stable-looking stance, retaining the same 1,855mm width as its predecessor. It's 40mm longer though. At the rear, this fourth generation Sportage features more horizontal forms and clearly defined feature lines, with smooth bodywork on the tailgate, emphasising the car's width and giving this compact SUV a more stable appearance.

Market and Model

Equipment levels have been boosted across the range, the key interior addition being Kia's AVN audio-visial navigation system, available with either 7.0 or 8.0-inch colour touchscreen layouts. Other up-market features you can specify include a rear-view parking camera with dynamic parking lines and a Smart Power Tailgate, which opens the tailgate automatically when the key is 'sensed' in close proximity to the tailgate. There are also Dynamic Bending Headlamps, which sweep the road ahead in line with the steering wheel for greater visibility and improved safety at night. And buyers will be offered a 'Smart Welcome' function, which turns on interior and door handle lamps and unfolds the door mirrors once the smart key fob is located within 1.3-1.7 metres of the door handle.

Cost of Ownership

Efficiency levels are much as before, not surprising given that the mainstream engines are little different from those supplied with the previous generation version of this car. This means that the best-performing Sportage from an economy and emissions perspective remains the front-wheel drive 1.7 CRDi diesel which manages around 55mpg on the combined cycle and around 135g/km of CO_2.

Like the rest of the Kia range, the Sportage is sold with the excellent seven-year or 100,000-mile warranty. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits have been reached. Fixed cost servicing also brings additional peace of mind via the Kia Care-3 and Care-3 Plus servicing package, offering retail customers inflation-proof servicing for the first three or five years.

Summary

Have the updates made to this fourth generation Kia Sportage been sufficient to keep buyers loyal? It's true that they could have been more far-reaching, especially beneath the bonnet but there's just enough here to keep existing customers loyal, we think.

That's important as Kia is fortunate enough to have quite a few of these people in the UK, thanks to the impressive sales success achieved by the third generation version of this car. This MK4 model offers these folk a little more attitude and they'll like the much more up-market interior. Ultimately, it's a car you sit in and wonder just how a Honda CR-V or a Toyota RAV4 can be worth around £5,000 more. That says it all really.

Facts at a glance

CAR: Kia Sportage
PRICES: from £17,465 - £31,645 on the road
INSURANCE GROUPS: 10-19
CO2 EMISSIONS: 119-179g/km
PERFORMANCE: [2.0 CRDi 4x4 manual] 0-60mph 11.3s / Max Speed 112mph
FUEL CONSUMPTION: [2.0 CRDi 4x4 manual] (Combined) 54.3 mpg
STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: Twin front side and curtain airbags, ESC, trailer stability, tyre pressure warning, ABS
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Used Car Road Test

by Jonathan Crouch

Small but perfectly formed







THE supermini segment is one that traditionally commands strong sales but also one which has felt the squeeze in recent years. That means models like this improved third-generation Corsa have had to really up their game in order to command the sort of sales figures their paymasters are accustomed to. So they've got better in terms of both quality and durability. Original versions of this MK3 Corsa, first introduced in 2007 and known as the 'Corsa D' by its maker, were the first to set the ball rolling in this respect and by the time it was necessary for this design to have its final wash 'n brush-up in 2011, it really had become quite a smart little thing. As a result, buying a used version of a later third generation Corsa - even one with quite a few miles on the clock - ought to be something buyers should be able to approach with confidence.

The History

For all its admirable qualities, the Corsa has always been a car that reacted rather than pioneered. That strategy is perfectly valid in many markets - let the others take the risk and copy what works - but traditionally, it usually meant that this Vauxhall supermini was a step or two behind the best in its class when it came to bringing new technology and ideas to market. The third generation Corsa though, the so-called 'Corsa D', bucked this trend somewhat, bringing a feeling of build integrity that was beyond anything its budget rivals could muster.

Vauxhall reverted to type and attempted to give the Corsa a bit of the Fiesta's mojo. It wasn't unsuccessful either, the 2011 car benefiting from sharper responses introduced at the same time as engine tweaks that made the Corsa line-up one of the most fuel-efficient and eco-conscious choices in its class.

Plus there was a redesigned more upmarket look to the front end which brought the Corsa more into line with other, larger Vauxhall models. As always with the Corsa, special edition models came and went at a dizzying rate.

In 2012, the 1.3CDTi ecoFLEX Start/Stop model got a few tweaks to drop its carbon emissions down to just 88g/km and lift economy to 85.6mpg. The Black Edition debuted the 1.4 Turbo engine and the VXR model remained as crazy as ever with the hardcore Nurburgring edition morphing into the Clubsport.

What To Look For

You'll be impressed by the reliability record of this uprated MK3 Corsa. There have been few reported issues with this car, although the long service intervals mean a full service history is even more desirable than usual. Check for the usual parking knocks and scrapes and make sure the alloys aren't kerbed.

The sporty SRi and VXR models should be checked for tyre wear, suspension alignment and accident damage and a full HPI check undertaken. You'll also need to make sure that 'VXR' models are just that. More than a few unscrupulous sellers attempt to pass off 1.4T models or SRi versions with body kits as VXRs.

On The Road

There's never been too much wrong with the way a Corsa responds: it just wasn't anything out of the ordinary. And with 'ordinary' being something that Vauxhall wasn't too comfortable with at this revised MK3 model's low-key launch in 2011, that had to change. The enhancements made here over the original MK3 model don't sound too huge - tweaked power steering for more driving 'feel', plus revisions to springs, dampers and anti-roll bars - but together, they add up to quite a lot.

Under the bonnet, the 2011 update saw Vauxhall re-fettled virtually all the engines on offer -which was necessary in the case of the entry-level 1.0 and 1.2-litre petrol units. Small but useful 5PS improvements for both of these equated to revised 65 and 85PS outputs, but it's still better if funds permit, to stretch to the petrol 1.4, 10PS beefier in this version with 100PS on tap.

Diesel drivers can benefit from Vauxhall's ecoFlex technology with the entry-level 75PS version of the brand's trusty 1.3 CDTi unit, but they'll get much more by opting for this engine in greener, more frugal 95PS ecoFlex guise. If that's not enough, Vauxhall also offered buyers a 130PS 1.7-litre CDTi option in the line-up.

Overall

As the third generation Corsa neared the end of its production life, it needed to sharpen up its act - and did. When Vauxhall first introduced this improved version in 2011, sales were duly boosted, but then quickly pegged back again as newer rivals came on the scene. This version makes a good used buy though, providing you're not expecting the latest in interior design trends. Indeed, there's a lot to like about the Corsa in its most fettled MK3 form. It feels solid, it drives well and it's not overburdened by the sort of complicated driver 'assistance' electronics that confuse and frustrate many owners.

Its reliability record stands up and the emissions and economy of the diesel engines in particular still stand up to the harshest scrutiny. In short, it's one of the best value used superminis you can lay your hands on.



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Motors - first for new cars

New Car Launch Model Of The Week



by Jonathan Crouch

Does the new Volvo V90 have everything?







VOLVO'S V90 is a large luxury estate every bit as good as anything the German brands can bring you. It's the most sophisticated station wagon we've seen from the brand for a couple of decades, efficient, spacious and stylish. If you're shopping in this segment, you need o consider it.

Background

There's nothing quite like a big, boxy Volvo estate car: it's the kind of product that defines this Swedish marque. Nor is it the kind of car this Scandinavian brand is going to leave behind as it redefines its product range under rejuvenated Chinese ownership. For proof of that, check out this car, the V90.

This is the station wagon version of the S90 saloon, a car based on the same sophisticated architecture as the company's award-winning XC90 luxury SUV. It's a size larger than the existing V70 model - and a good deal more sophisticated under the skin. Plus, as you'd want, it remains as Swedish as meatballs and as practical as ever. The prospects then, are promising.

Driving Experience

Unlike older V70 models, this V90's more sophisticated underpinnings can accommodate a complete range of the brand's 'Drive-E' engines, 2.0-litre units that are impressively efficient. Initially, buyers are being offered the choice between two units: either the 190PS D4 powerplant borrowed from Volvo's smaller S60 and V60 models. Or the 235PS D5 twin turbodiesel, also with four cylinders, this matched with the security of AWD. All V90s come with smooth 8-speed auto transmission.

The 235bhp D5 variant utilises an innovative technology called PowerPulse to boost responsiveness. This uses compressed air, which is stored in a tank in the engine bay and refilled automatically, to spool up the turbo at low revs. This helps to overcome turbo lag, which is the short delay in the power delivery you experience in traditional turbocharged engines. For the future, two further powerplants are promised.

There's a 320PS T6 petrol unit, which utilises both turbo and supercharging, but most British customers will inevitably walk straight past that to look instead at the T8 Twin Engine petrol/electric plug-in hybrid model. This delivers a combined 412PS output, with a thumping 640Nm of torque. 62mph from rest is dispatched in under 6s.

Design and Build

This is certainly a more credible full-sized executive estate than anything Volvo has brought us to date. The V90 has a proud yet non-aggressive face, characterised by a concave grille - apparently a homage to the Volvo P1800 - that's home to the brand's distinctive 'Iron Mark' logo. The T-shaped 'Thor's Hammer' lights are recognisable from the XC90 and deliver a powerful sense of direction that makes this car unmistakable on the road.

Inside, you'll find basically the same interior as the S90, with beautiful finishing and plenty of leather, classy wood and glass. At the rear, there's up 1526-litres of bootspace (including underfloor storage). That's a useful figure, though is a little bit less than you'd get with rival BMW 5 Series Touring and Mercedes E-Class estate competitors. That's probably down to the stylish sloping rear glass.

Market and Model

Prices start at around £35,000 for the entry-level D4 diesel manual model. That represents a premium of £2,000 over the S90 saloon variant. Figures elsewhere in the range swell up towards the £45,000 mark, as you'd expect from a car in this class aiming to go up alongside full-sized executive segment rivals like BMW's 5 Series Touring, Audi's A6 Avant and Mercedes latest E-Class Estate.

Top models can be ordered with features like 21-inch alloy wheels and powered, heated and ventilated seats trimmed in Nappa leather. Inside, the tablet-like touch screen in the centre console drives the minor controls and a whole host of Internet-based products and services. Audio services in the plushest variants come courtesy of a monster Bowers & Wilkins stereo. The electronically controlled air suspension has a choice of five modes, including one where the driver is free to tailor the settings to his or her personal taste.

Cost of Ownership

With the D5 diesel most V90 buyers will choose, expect 57.6mpg on the combined cycle and 129g/km of CO2. These figures improve to 62.8mpg and 119g/km in the less powerful D4 diesel variant. For the future, Volvo promises a top T8 Twin Engine petrol plug-in hybrid model, which should deliver under 50g/km of CO2 and up to 26 miles of pure electric driving range.

Depreciation will be a key consideration for potential owners. It'll be interesting to see to how the market responds to Volvo's new direction in style and quality here. Think in terms of RVs that are comparable with a brand like Lexus in this segment and you shouldn't be too far out.

Summary

This is the classiest Volvo estate ever - and a really credible rival for its German competitors. No, it won't threaten the Teutonic brands overnight, but that's only because Volvo won't initially be importing the kind of volumes that would do that. On merit though, this is a car you need to consider if you're fortunate enough to be buying in the top echelon of the large luxury estate segment.

We think that many business buyers currently purchasing large luxury SUV would actually be more comfortable in something like this V90. Try one and you'll understand why.

Facts at a glance

FACTS AT A GLANCE
CAR: Volvo V90 range
PRICES: £34,555-£44,055 - on the road
INSURANCE GROUPS: TBC
CO2 EMISSIONS: 119-129g/km
PERFORMANCE: [D5] 0-62mph 8s / top speed 140mph [est]
FUEL CONSUMPTION: [D5] (combined) 57.6mpg
STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES: Front, side and curtain airbags, ABS, Brake Assist, City Safety, DSTC
WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARAGE?: (length/width/height) TBC



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PREMIER

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Thursday 18th August 2016

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4 ★ HARROGATE AND YORK



Hotel: Majestic Hotel, Harrogate A palatial and stately Victorian property. The Majestic Hotel is a Harrogate landmark, set in 8 acres of private gardens in the heart of this elegant floral spa town! On Monday we visit the historic city of York with a host of attractions including York Minster, the Shambles, Jorvik Centre and much more!

Sunday 4th September 2016 PREMIER

ONLY £199 2 NIGHTS HB

BLACKPOOL & THE ILLUMINATIONS



Hotel: The Queens Hotel, Blackpool Ideally situated on the South promenade with over 100 well equipped bedrooms, theatre & cocktail bar, attractive lounges and indoor swimming pool. Few resorts can rival the popularity of Blackpool with over one million bulbs, the world famous illuminations are an awesome spectacle. Excursion: Illumination Tour (Friday evening)

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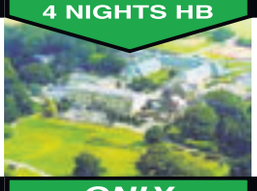


Hotel: The Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth The Royal Bath has a superb location directly on the front looking down upon miles of golden sands. Bournemouth is full of flowers, beautiful parks and gardens. It is probably Britain's most international resort. Excursions: New Forest & Christchurch

Monday 12th September 2016

ONLY £349 4 NIGHTS HB NEW

4 ★ DELUXE PEAK DISTRICT



Hotel: Shrigley Hall Hotel & Country Club The hotel is an elegant Victorian country house, set in 262 acres of grounds on the edge of the Peak District National Park. 148 elegant rooms - extensive leisure facilities - a luxury break!! Excursions: Trafford Centre, Manchester - Peak District - Chatsworth House

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Hotel: Fairhaven Hotel, Weymouth The Fairhaven is ideally situated on the esplanade overlooking Weymouth Bay with views of the magnificent Jurassic Coastline! - residents lounge - entertainment bar - air conditioned restaurant - lift to all floors. Excursions: Jurassic Coast & Swanage

Friday 23rd September 2016

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EASTBOURNE & SOUTH COAST



Hotel: Queens Hotel, Eastbourne This magnificent Victorian hotel is situated in an outstanding position overlooking the pier! Spacious public rooms include a cocktail bar, sun lounge and two restaurants. Eastbourne is one of Britain's more elegant resorts, enjoying a glorious location on the south coast. Excursions: Brighton & Bluebell Railway

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